



# Hurricane Irma Response

## EPA Region 4

### SITUATION REPORT #09

1700 - 0900 EST, September 12, 2017



### SEPTEMBER 12, 0900 UPDATES

- EPA Preparation and Response Activities
  - The Florida SEOC ESF-10 Desk has identified 185 priority facilities within 23 counties. The list is composed of a combination of facility types (e.g., FRP and RMP).
  - The EPA Region 4, Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center (AFC) remains closed; however, the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) remains operational and staffed.
  - Region 4 Field Assessment teams, composed of On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) and START contractors, will mobilize to Florida today. Teams will rally in Orlando, Florida and await assignments from the Operations Section Chief.
  - The Region 4 Superfund Remedial (SFD) program will deploy Rapid Assessment teams, composed of Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) and field staff from the R4 Science and Ecological Support Division (SESD), to Florida to conduct rapid assessments at all National Priority List (NPL) sites within the State. Teams are mobilizing today.
  - The Water Protection Division (WPD) continues to coordinate with the FDEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) relative to Water and Drinking Water issues. A Water Team will join USACE at the Florida SEOC in Tallahassee, Florida today to support preliminary water and wastewater system assessments.
  - Initial reports from Georgia water and wastewater systems indicate that six community-water systems are without power or on back-up generators. Three Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) are reported as being without power or partially operating on back-up generators. Requests for back-up power generators for water and wastewater treatment facilities are coming to the State of Georgia ESF-3 desk.
  - Figure 1 (provided at the end of this report) depicts current storm surge data and priority facilities located in north Florida, south Georgia, and southern Alabama that may be impacted.

- State and Tribal Updates
  - As of 0800 hours, there are approximately 5,021,465 power outages in Florida and 1,269,080 outages in Georgia.
  - Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) is reporting 8,871 people in shelters.
  - The Florida State Emergency Response Team (SERT) has not provided an update regarding people in shelters. Yesterday, they reported 203,061 people in shelters.
  - The Tennessee SEOC was activated to State of Emergency on September 11 as Irma approaches Tennessee. The SEOC will remain activated with 24-hour operations.
  - The Seminole Tribe, of Florida, is conducting assessments of critical infrastructure; no issues reported.
  - The Miccosukee, of Florida, continues to remain without power. They are actively conducting assessments of critical infrastructure; no issues are reported. The tribe has received water pumps from the USACE and Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- **NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER (NRC)**
  - Table 1 below provides a summary of NRC reports received in Hurricane Irma impact areas. Incidents that may require action by the EPA Region 4 field teams are summarized in the Region 4 States section of the Situation Report.

<b>Table 1</b>						
<b>NRC Report Tracking</b>						
Location	Hazardous Materials		Oil		Other	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Florida	0	2	0	14	0	2
Georgia	-	-	0	1	-	-
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-

Open means response status unknown or currently responding

Closed means response addressed by owner-operator or Federal, State, or local agency; no EPA assistance requested.

- **Significant NRC Reports**  
**Mosaic Fertilizer Phosphoric Acid Spill in Bartow, Polk County, Florida** – The facility report that heavy rains caused a release of process water containing 2% phosphoric acid from a lined impoundment. The release did not impact water and did not leave the facility. Facility personnel are pumping the release material back into the lined impoundment. Facility personnel advised that they are working with FDEP's Phosphate Group and providing regular updates.
- **CURRENT HURRICANE IRMA STATUS**
  - Hurricane Irma has been downgraded to a Tropical Depression. The storm center is approximately 40 miles northeast of Auburn, Alabama with sustained winds near 35 miles per hour (mph). The storm is moving northwest at 15 mph.
  - The storm is anticipated to continue on its current track over through central and northwest Alabama as a tropical depression.
- **CURRENT HURRICANE JOSE STATUS**
  - Hurricane Jose is located about 435 miles north-northeast of Grand Turk Island, the capital island of the Turks and Caicos. The storm has sustained winds of 75 mph and is moving to the east at 6 miles per hour (mph).
  - Current National Hurricane Center (NHC) models indicate the storm will complete a slow anticyclonic loop over the next 72 hours.

## **REOC STATUS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS**

The EPA Region 4 REOC maintains a Level 3 activation. The following positions have been activated in the REOC and a table is provided below:

- REOC Manager
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Logistics Section Chief
- Planning Section Chief
- Situation Unit Leader with START support
- Resource Unit Leader
- Documentation Unit Leader
- Environmental Unit Leader
- Safety Officer
- Finance Section Chief
- GIS Support (START)

<b>Table 2 Current Region 4 Staffing</b>					
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>EPA R4 Atlanta</b>	<b>FEMA Atlanta</b>	<b>Florida SEOC</b>	<b>Broward County</b>	<b>Palm Beach County</b>
<b>EPA Region 4</b>	50	1	2	1	1
<b>START</b>	2	0	0	0	0

Staffing provided in this Table represents all EPA and contractor staff associated with the Hurricane Irma response.

### **FEMA RRCC**

- The EPA Region 4 is currently operating under a Federal Operations Support (FOS) MA for \$35,000 to support staffing the ESF-10 desk at the RRCC and the Florida State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC).
- ESF-10 MAs have been issued to provide Hazard Assessment Response teams. Targeted facilities will be identified by, and assessments directed through, the ESF-10 desk at the Florida SEOC.
  - The request is being divided between EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) with EPA receiving \$525,000 and USCG receiving \$150,000. The period of performance is from September 10 to 25, 2017.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

- The Regional and Superfund Division Officers made contingency arrangements to assist with vaccinations and medical monitoring in the event the storm impacts the Atlanta area and the REOC gets shut down.
- Safety Officers drafted and distributed Safety Message #1 to the EPA personnel currently deployed in Florida. The Safety Message is cross posted on the Irma SharePoint and the response.epa.gov websites.
- The Superfund Division Safety Officer developed and provided safety objectives to REOC Planning Support Section to be included in the Incident Action Plan.

- The Safety Officer prepared and uploaded safety briefings covering fatigued and drowsy driving prevention, drum sampling and hazardous categorization (HAZCAT) safety, heat stress prevention, HHW and collection site safety and field work computer ergonomics to the Irma SharePoint and response.epa.gov websites.
- The overall Health and Safety Plan was reviewed and approved today. It will be posted on the Irma SharePoint and the response.epa.gov sites.

## **NATIONAL PRIORITY SITES**

- NPL Rapid Assessment Teams will deploy to five geographic regions in Florida today, as identified by the REOC.

## **FINANCE**

- The EPA Region 4 received a Direct Federal Assistance MA for \$525,000 to perform facility assessment in Florida after the storm makes landfall. This MA after the indirect adjustment totals \$458,587.
- The USCG received a \$150,000 MA to support the EPA Region 4 ESF-10 activities.
- The REOC Finance Section is in the process of uploading appropriate account codes to the PeoplePlus System.
- All previous MAs are being switched to the disaster (DR) account; therefore, the emergency (EM) or surge account will no longer be valid. FEMA directed the EPA not to bill to those original funding accounts.

<b>Table 3 FEMA Mission Assignment Status</b>					
<b>Mission Assignment Number</b>	<b>Type of Mission Assignment</b>	<b>Period of Performance</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost to Date</b>
FL-17083101-EPA-01	Federal Operations Support	September 4 to 14, 2017	0%	\$35,000	\$8,580
3385EM-FL-EPA-01	Direct Federal Assistance	September 10 to 25, 2017	25%	\$525,000	NA
3385EM-FL-COE-SAD-10	Federal Operations Support	September 8 to 29, 2017	0%	\$150,000	NA

## **REGION 4 PREPARDNESS**

- The EPA Region 4 Mobile Command Post (MCP) will deploy to Tallahassee to support Florida SEOC operations and field operations, as needed, on Wednesday, September 13, 2017.
- The EPA Assessment Team personnel will mobilize to Florida today.
- The Region 4 SFD group will deploy teams to Florida to conduct rapid assessment at all National Priority List (NPL) sites within the State. Teams are mobilizing today.
- The WPD will deploy teams to Tallahassee, Florida today, to support the USACE water sector mission. WPD continues to coordinate with USACE.
- The WPD continues to coordinate with Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee regarding data sharing.

## **REGION 4 STATES**

### **FLORIDA**

- Florida is currently operating at their highest level of activation - Level 1, with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) staffed by Division of Emergency Management personnel and all Emergency Support Functions.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on September 10, 2017, that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of Florida to supplement recovery efforts retroactive to September 4, 2017.
  - The declaration includes assistance for public emergency protective measures, including debris missions, at 100% of the total eligible costs for all 67 counties.
  - Individual assistance is available to residents of Charlotte, Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties.
- Florida ESF-12 personnel plan to assess Facility Response Plan (FRP) regulated power generating facilities.
- Florida ESF-10 personnel continue to assist State, Tribal, and Federal partners in preparing for post landfall response and mitigation actions. Primary focus has been in three areas:
  - Ensuring that impacted drinking water and wastewater facilities are returned to service as quickly as possible. The EPA is supporting this activity with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the USACE.
  - Developing and implementing debris management strategies and operations. EPA is working with FDEP, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the USACE to support their needs.
  - The EPA coordinated with the FDEP, Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), FEMA, and the USACE concerning the development and implementation of a Debris Management Plan. Key issues discussed relative to EPA were the management of Hazardous Wastes, Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW), Asbestos, Air Curtain Incinerators, Tribal Concerns, and Environmental Justice areas.
- The EPA continued to coordinate with the FDEP and the USACE relative to Water and Drinking Water issues. Additionally, the USACE has indicated they may request Region 4 assistance with sampling activities associated with bringing the Water/Drinking Water facilities back on line.
- The table below provides a summary of priority facilities in Florida:

<b>Table 4</b> <b>Priority Facility Sites in Florida</b>				
<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>WWTP</b>	<b>NPL</b>	<b>RMP</b>	<b>FRP</b>
1,642	387	92	263	121

Notes:

WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant

FRP – Facility Response Plan facilities

NPL – National Priority List sites

RMP – Risk Management Plan facilities

## GEORGIA

- The Georgia SEOC is currently operating at a Level 1 (full activation and fully staffed) activation. No request for EPA representatives have been made at this time.
- On September 10, 2017, the Governor extended a State of Emergency for the remaining 65 counties and now the State of Emergency covers all 159 counties.
- There are significant fuel outages in Georgia. Though fuel continues to come into the state via pipeline and the Colonial Oil terminal in Savannah has enough fuel, delivery logistics will remain a challenge.
- The ports in Savannah, Georgia, remain closed.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

- On September 7, 2017, an emergency declaration issued by FEMA authorized emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding. This includes all 46 South Carolina counties and the Catawba Indian Nation.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

- The North Carolina SEOC is currently operating at Level 4 activation. They are monitoring tropical weather forecasts.

## **ALABAMA**

- The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is currently operating the SEOC at Level 1 (full operation) activation.
- Four Operations Centers have also been activated along the State's eastern border. Five EMA Divisions along the eastern and southeastern borders of the State are on stand-by to begin operations, as needed.
- The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) reported to the Alabama SEOC. ADEM is anticipated to staff their SEOC throughout the duration of Level 1 activation.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

- The Mississippi SEOC is currently operating at Level 3 (modified) activation. They are monitoring Irma's path and EPA is maintaining communication with the State to determine if EPA assistance is needed.

## **TENNESSEE**

- The Tennessee SEOC is currently operating at an elevated activation and is staffed with partners from State of Tennessee departments. SEOC staff are monitoring Irma's movement and standing ready to assist local jurisdictions with any life-saving measures or need requests.
- Tennessee has not declared a state of emergency at this time.

## **REGION 4 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES IN POTENTIAL STORM PATH**

Region 4 continues to coordinate with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### **Seminole Tribe of Florida**

- Tribal leaders have requested an Emergency Declaration from the President of the United States. The request includes enforcement assistance, emergency telecommunications capabilities, and assistance with acquisition of emergency commodities. The request is currently being evaluated by FEMA.
- The Seminole Tribe in Florida has lost power at Immokalee, Big Cypress, Brighton, and Hollywood Reservations. A water main break occurred at Hollywood; a boil notice is in effect and water being distributed.
- The Seminole Tribe reports that 77 Tribal members are in shelters. Their EOCs are at level 1 activation. FEMA has authorized funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance at 25% Tribal cost-share.

### **Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**

- The Miccosukee Tribe is without power and cell service. They are currently utilizing generators and have two satellite phones. Communications are disrupted on the Reservation and AT&T is working with the Tribe to restore service.
- Reports indicate that diesel supplies in the Reservation are being exhausted.

#### **Catawba Indian Nation (South Carolina)**

- No report on afternoon call.

#### **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina)**

- No report on afternoon call.

#### **Poarch band of Creek Indians (Alabama)**

- No report on afternoon call.

### **AIR, PESTICIDE & TOXICS MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

- Florida continues their shut down of ambient air monitoring sites located near the path of Hurricane Irma.

### **SCIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT DIVISION**

- The EPA Region 4 SESD Mobile Laboratory remains prepared to conduct the following analyses for Drinking Water: total coliform, E. coli, fecal coliform, and enterococcus.
- The EPA Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division continues make preparations to support response efforts.
  - A backup laboratory is ready to accept 10-15 samples per week for pesticide analysis.
  - Up to 14 personnel are immediately available to deploy to Florida to assist, as needed.
  - Mobile Lab for micro analysis (bacteria) is immediately available

### **WATER PROTECTION DIVISION**

- The EPA Region 4 WPD received funding totaling \$75,000 under an ESF-3 Mission Assignment (MA) sub-task to support the USACE drinking water and wastewater facility assessments.
  - Three technical experts have been identified to support USACE ESF-3 desk and teams will mobilize to Tallahassee, Florida today.
- The WPD compiled an inventory of community drinking water systems (CWS) and publicly owned wastewater treatment plants (POTW) that may be used during post storm damage assessment (Tables 5 and 6).

<b>Table 5</b> Total Number of Community Drinking Water Systems (CWS) and Total Population Served within Region 4 States and Tribal Lands		
<b>State or Tribe</b>	<b>Number of CWS</b>	<b>Population Served</b>
Alabama	514	5,607,481
Florida	1631	19,917,363
Georgia	1749	8,917,820
South Carolina	583	3,795,571
North Carolina	1999	8,250,007
Tennessee	472	6,921,665
Catawba (SC)	2	715
Cherokee (NC)	4	10,099
Miccosukee (FL)	1	500
Poarch (AL)	1	750
Seminole (FL)	4	7,610

<b>Table 6</b> Total Number of Publically Owned Wastewater Treatment Plants (POTWs)		
<b>State or Tribe</b>	<b>POTW</b>	<b>Other WWTP of Concern</b>
Alabama	374	To be determined.
Florida	2,410*	To be determined.
Georgia	572	To be determined.
South Carolina	172	To be determined.
North Carolina	396	To be determined.
Tennessee	372	To be determined.
Catawba (SC)	0	
Cherokee (NC)	1	
Miccosukee (FL)	0	
Poarch** (AL)	1	
Seminole (FL)	4	

\* Total number of facilities in Florida's StormTracker application, which includes POTWs, non-permitted WWTPs, and industrial facilities of concern. The number will be refined as information becomes available.

\*\* Lagoon system is on tribal lands. Discharge is to State waters (State issued permit)

- WPD continues building the necessary GIS data layers for use in mapping and communicating the status of drinking water wastewater systems in FL, GA, AL, SC, NC, and TN.
- WPD communicated with ADEM drinking water program to verify that ADEM has a system established to do initial assessments of drinking water systems. Arrangements have been made for ADEM to send their drinking water assessment/status tracking spreadsheet to the EPA Region 4. A follow-up call was scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2017, with ADEM. The findings of this call have not been reported at this time.



#### **REGION 4 OFFICE OF REGIONAL COUNSEL (ORC)**

- The ORC provided generic property access agreement language specifically for response activities under the Stafford Act.
- ORC continues to research existing legal opinions relative to private property access during a Stafford Act response.

#### **OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (OPA)**

- Coordinated with the EPA Region 4 REOC to provide a regional update for inclusion into OPA daily press release.

**Figure 1**  
**Priority Facilities in South Florida**

